

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Research Foundation of State University of New York at Stony Brook

Application ID: 13ES146389

Program Name: AmeriCorps Volunteers for Community Service

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

(+) The applicant clearly identifies two counties in which Members will serve and presents an excellent description of their populations.

(+) Persuasive evidence of the need for health management services for low-income persons is provided by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services' Community Health Assessment 2010-2013. It cites the number of uninsured and under-insured, which includes many working in service-based occupations, recent college graduates, and displaced professionals. The applicant proposes using Members to increase education about healthy living and improve access to care.

(+) The New York Times reports that Long Island nonprofits and social service agencies have been overwhelmed with growing caseloads. The objective to provide more volunteer assistance to those agencies, building their capacity, will be met by Members.

(+) The applicant describes its on-going work in this community as the rationale for its selection.

(+) The applicant goes beyond the required description of needs to describe the insufficient community resources to respond to the needs.

(+) AmeriCorps members will serve a number of different functions, including Access to Care, Access to Food, and Capacity Building, all related to providing care to underserved populations. Members will fill different roles depending upon which area they are placed in. This is a very good match of the Members to the needs of the community as identified in the proposal.

(+) Members will accomplish tasks that would not otherwise be possible given the nature of the overtaxed social service system, as described.

(+) The number of AmeriCorps members requested seems adequate to the tasks listed and the services to be

rendered.

(+) The impact that AmeriCorps members will have is high based on previous year's results since the program will not be changing in any significant fashion.

(+) Examples show past AmeriCorps members' successes and accomplishments and give credibility to future accomplishments.

(+) The applicant has a well thought-out evaluation plan which will address the need to measure and report on the impact the program is having.

(+) The applicant has selected performance targets based on need, the populations to be served, and the services to be provided which should provide a demonstration of the impact of the services delivered.

(-) No information or citations are provided that show that the interventions to be done by AmeriCorps members were selected because of their effectiveness in meeting the target populations' needs. This makes it difficult to assess whether or not the services being delivered will be effective.

(-) The applicant does not delineate the change that they expect to see take place over the three-year grant cycle, although the applicant does talk about single year goals and targets.

(-) There is a lack of information as to what evidence-based instruments were used or how target numbers for the 2011 data were determined.

(-) The applicant does not provide the projected cumulative target number of service projects and programs to be completed nor do they provide the population numbers AmeriCorps members will serve in working with individuals with hunger issues and within healthy futures activities.